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NOTES

"ECHINORHYNCHUS MONILIFORMIS" IN NORTH AMERICA *

Among the Acanthocephala which are exclusively parasitic and highly specialized for the parasitic habit, only three species have been reported for the human host and even these are rare or doubtful. *Gigantorhynchus hirudinaceus* (= *G. gigas*) is said to occur in man in southern Russia but the statement is unconfirmed. Lambl found in the intestine of a boy a single parasite to which he gave the name of *Echinorhynchus hominis.*

The third species, originally named *Echinorhynchus moniliformis,* has commanded especial attention by virtue of its relation to man. Grassi and Calandruccio found it in Sicily in the small intestine of field mice, rats, and marmots. They detected the intermediate host in *Blaps mucronata* and in some cases found as many as 100 larvae encysted in a single cockroach. They fed such larvae to a white rat and Calandruccio swallowed some at the same time. These developed well in both hosts. The authors identified eggs apparently of the same species in the feces of a young peasant but were unable to carry out a cure and confirm the diagnosis.

Through the courtesy of Mr. G. E. Clark some material has been placed in my hands which belongs to a larger species of closely related type. These worms were taken from a squirrel in Illinois. They furnish the first record of this type for the North American continent. As noted above the European species has been grown experimentally in the human host and this species is likely to show the same power if the mature larvae are introduced by any chance into the human intestine.

After extended study it may be said that the two species are both sufficiently characteristic in their resemblances to each other and in their differences from other known forms to constitute a new genus to which the name of *Hormorhynchus* may be given. *H. moniliformis* (Bremser 1819) is designated as type and attention is called to the fact that Lühe believes there are several species in Europe all included under the one name. The American species is designated as *H. clarki.* Specimens measure 100 to 130 mm. in length. The proboscis is very small, being only 0.255 mm. long by 0.12 mm. broad. The first ring is 5 mm. from the anterior tip. The rings begin faintly but distinctly; they are about 1 mm. long and little wider than the body. They increase rapidly up to 2 mm. in length and at the point of greatest length the individual rings are so swollen as to become markedly wider than the body. From this region they taper out very gradually. The last 15 mm. of the body shows no trace of rings and for the same distance anterior to it the rings are very faint. A full description of the species will be published elsewhere.

HENRY B. WARD

DIPTERA IN THE HUMAN INTESTINE

On Sept. 30, 1916, Dr. W. C. King of Helena, Ark., sent some intestinal parasitic worms which he reported as coming from an adult woman, to the State Hygienic Laboratory connected with the Medical Department of the University of Arkansas for identification. Dr. A. C. Shipp, in charge of the Hygienic Laboratory, consulted with me about these worms. They were plainly annular with about thirteen segments. The shape was very nearly pyramidal with some seven or more papillae at the blunt posterior end.

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* Contributions from the Zoological Laboratory of the University of Illinois, No. 91.

These worms looked so much like Dipterous larvae that I suggested that we place them on nutrient agar for a few days to see if they would pupate. Pupation took place in about three days and after about five days more there was hatched a medium-sized black fly. Later others were hatched. Some of these were sent to Prof. James S. Hine of the Entomology Department of Ohio State University, who identified them as *Sarcophaga assidua* Walker.

Our attention has been called to two or three other cases of similar occurrence of what seemed to be Dipterous larvae in the stools of persons this past fall and summer. In one case the sputum gathered in a sterile bottle under a physician's guidance showed what seemed on examination to be young Dipterous larvae. Unfortunately these larvae were killed in the overheating of our incubator.

How these larvae gain access to the intestine unless through ingestion of food in the stage of the freshly laid eggs on exposed cooked food or in uncooked food, is a question. Whether they passed the gastric digestion in the stage of egg or larva is problematical.

CHARLES BROOKOVER
Department of Anatomy, University of Arkansas.

Dr. E. González reported to the Congress of Medicine at Maracaibo the occurrence of *Leishmania brasiliensis* Vianna in a servant woman brought to the clinic at San Fernando de Apure. The preparations were examined by members of the Yellow Fever Commission of the Rockefeller Institute and the diagnosis confirmed. This is the first case of cutaneous Leishmaniasis from Venezuela.

Parasitologists will be interested in the circular of the Merchants Association of New York on the Dangerous House Fly. It is important to urge on every community the necessity of early action this year to eradicate this dangerous agency in the transmission of disease. Incidentally also laboratory teachers may be glad to know that in the flies which appear early in the season a flagellate (Crithidia sp.?) occurs abundantly in the gut. Material can be secured readily from this host that is well adapted to class study or demonstration of this group.